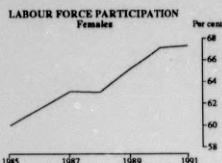


# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 8 August 1991**

## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Labour force activity remains high

The proportion of females who participated in the labour force at some time during a given year remains high, having risen steadily from 60 per cent for the year ended February 1985 to 67 per cent for both March 1990 and March 1991. Male participation has remained steady at around 86 per cent over this period.

These results are from the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics' survey of Labour Force Experience for the year ended March 1991.

Of females, those in the 20-24 year age group have recorded the highest labour force participation rate in each of the past seven surveys. Participation by married females has grown steadily, from 55 per cent in 1985 to 65 per cent in 1991. For married females, those aged between 45 and 54 years recorded the largest participation rate increase, from 57 per cent in 1985 to 69 per cent in 1991. Males aged between 20 and 54 years have recorded participation rates over 90 per cent from 1985 onwards.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR  
Per cent

	February 1985	February 1988	March 1991
Males	86.1	85.5	86.3
Females	60.0	63.0	67.3
Persons	73.1	74.3	76.9

Of the 8.7 million persons who worked at some time during the year, 5.8 million (67%) worked for the full 52 weeks. Some 86 per cent of male workers worked all their weeks on a full-time basis compared with 53 per cent of female workers.

The number of persons who spent some time out of the labour force was 5.2 million, 2.8 million of which spent no time in the labour force during the year. Of women who were out of the labour force at some time during the year, 62 per cent reported their main activity as 'home duties/childcare'. Males reported their main activities when not in the labour force as retired or voluntarily inactive (28%) and attending an educational institution (28%).

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0), or contact Michael Jones on (06) 252 6503.

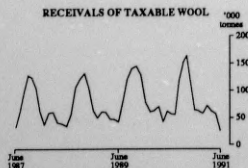
## Wool receivals at 10-year low

Receivals of taxable wool by brokers and dealers decreased by 53.7 per cent in June 1991 compared with May 1991. The fall in receivals followed a relatively constant level over the previous 6 months. The monthly receivals figure for June 1991 was the lowest since June 1981.

Factors contributing to the decrease included:

- ☐ transactions decreased significantly as farmers awaited the introduction of lower taxes on 1 July 1991, and
- ☐ drought conditions reduced the cut per head.

*Continued ...*



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Livestock slaughtering also declined in June 1991 as is shown in the table below.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, JUNE 1991

	'000	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Lambs	1,158	-20.0	-11.8
Sheep	1,019	-30.7	-10.2
Calves	91	4.4	-9.0
Pigs	405	-6.4	-6.0
Cattle	600	-17.3	-3.8

Total red meat production declined by 17.5 per cent in June 1991 compared with May 1991, reflecting the decrease in slaughtering for the same period. However total red meat production in the year to June 1991 was 3.5 per cent higher than in the year to June 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Marion Long on (06) 252 5337.

## Hong Kong settlers on the increase

In March 1991, there were a total of 350,000 arrivals into Australia, an increase of 2 per cent compared with March 1990 (343,700).

Of these arrivals, 10,890 were settlers, 13 per cent more than in March 1990 (9,610).

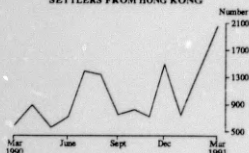
There were 2,810 settlers from Northeast Asia (26% of total settlers) which was an increase of 123 per cent on March 1990 (1,260), and continued the strong growth seen in February 1991. This increase is largely attributable to settlers born in Hong Kong. In March 1991, those born in Hong Kong made up 73 per cent (2,060) of settlers from the Northeast Asian region and 19 per cent of all settlers.

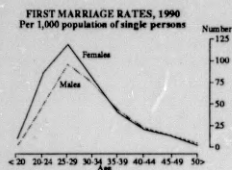
Of settlers born in Hong Kong, who arrived in Australia in March 1991 and were in the labour force, 77 per cent had professional occupations. Of these, 21 per cent were school teachers, 12 per cent were computer professionals and 17 per cent were engineers. Children and non-working settlers made up 36 per cent of total settlers born in Hong Kong.

SETTLERS ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Month	Settlers born in Hong Kong	Settlers born in Northeast Asia	Total settler arrivals
1990 —			
March	590	1,260	9,610
1991 —			
February	1,390	2,180	9,690
March	2,060	2,810	10,890

SETTLERS FROM HONG KONG





## Marriages decline in 1990

There were 116,959 marriages registered in Australia during 1990, a slight decrease on 1989 (117,176) after increases in both 1988 and 1989. The crude marriage rate decreased from 7.0 per 1,000 population in 1989 to 6.8 in 1990.

This decline was also evident in the first marriage rates, where the greatest decline was 7 per cent for both males and females in the 20-24 year age group.

Males continue to marry at an older age than females and both sexes are marrying later. In 1990, 40 per cent of grooms and 29 per cent of brides were over 30 years of age, compared with 1989 where 39 per cent of grooms and 28 per cent of brides were over the age of 30 years. The median age at marriage in 1990 was 28.1 years for males and 25.8 years for females.

There were 78,782 marriages (67%) where neither partner had been previously married. The Northern Territory (61%) had the lowest proportion of marriages involving never married persons and Victoria (70%), the highest.

Remarriage rates for both sexes have also shown declines in most age groups in 1990 compared with 1989. Males who remarry tend to do so after a shorter interval than females. The median interval since the last previous marriage was 2.9 years for males compared with 3.5 years for females. Of those remarrying in 1990, 13 per cent had been remarried more than once and 40 per cent who remarried had dependant children (under 16 years of age) from previous marriages.

**PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS**  
Percentage distribution

Status	1961	1971	1981	1990
Both partners never married	85.0	86.1	68.2	67.4
Both partners divorced	1.9	2.3	10.2	10.9
One partner divorced	8.4	8.4	19.2	19.9
Other	4.7	3.3	2.4	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For further information, order the publication *Marriages, Australia* (3306.0), or contact Michael Nunn on (06) 252 6755.

## Industry analysis using Australian input-output multipliers

A new ABS technical publication based on the National Accounts is expected to become a valuable tool in the hands of both economic analysts and non-economists who want to know more about the workings of Australia's economy.

The publication, 1986-87 *Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Multipliers*, was released in June 1991.

Input-output multipliers quantify the effects on an economy of an exogenous change (i.e. determined by factors outside the productive system) in final demand (i.e. private and government final consumption expenditure; private, public enterprise and general government gross fixed capital expenditure; increase in stocks; and exports).

The new publication presents eight tables of input-output multipliers for output, household income, employment and imports. Each table shows initial, first round, industrial support and consumption induced effects as well as simple and total multipliers for each of 28 industry groups.

The total output multipliers show, for example, that an increase of \$1,000 in final demand for the goods and services produced by the meat and milk products industry, will result in a total increase in production of \$3,216 by all industries in the economy.

An increase in final demand for the goods and services produced by an industry results in an increase in the money spent by industries for wages and salaries, thus affecting household income. The total household income multipliers measure the total impact of a change in final demand for the goods and services produced by an industry on total household income.

The total employment multipliers show the effects of a change in final demand for the goods and services produced by an industry on the total employment in the economy.

When the final demand for the goods and services produced by an industry changes, the amount spent by that industry and all other industries on buying imported goods is also affected. The import multipliers measure these effects.

The table below shows some of the multipliers presented in the publication. It shows, for example, that an increase of \$1,000 in final demand for goods and services produced by the basic metals industry, will create total additional production of \$3,072.

The table also shows that an increase of \$1,000 in the final demand for the goods and services produced by the basic metals industry, will create additional household income of \$614, an increase in employment of 0.025 persons, and extra demand for imported goods worth \$160.

**TOTAL INPUT-OUTPUT MULTIPLIERS, 1986-87**  
Effect of change in final demand

Selected industries	Output	Imports	Household income	Employment
Meat and milk products	3.216	0.123	0.581	0.035
Fabricated metal products	3.212	0.189	0.757	0.035
Other food products	3.100	0.171	0.643	0.033
Basic metals and products	3.072	0.160	0.614	0.025
Public administration, defence	3.019	0.217	1.011	0.040
Wood and wood products	3.013	0.219	0.742	0.039

For further information, order the publication, Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Multipliers (5237.0), or contact Dr. Annette Barbetti on (06) 252 6908 or Mrs. Doris de Silva on (06) 252 6643.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

**Statistics Weekly**  
8 August 1991

## All the week's releases: 31 July to 6 August

### General

Statistics Weekly, 1 August 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, July 1991 (1305.1; \$13.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., July 1991 (1303.2; \$10.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, July 1991 (1304.3; \$9.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, July 1991 (1305.5; \$10.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, July 1991 (1303.4; \$9.00)  
Australian Capital Territory Statistical Summary, 1991 (1307.8; \$17.00)

### Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., March 1991 (3401.0; \$6.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 1989-90 (5220.0; \$20.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

Labour Force Experience, Aust., March 1991 (6206.0; \$11.50)  
The Labour Force, NSW, May 1991 (6201.1; \$14.50)  
The Labour Force, Vic., May 1991 (6202.2; \$14.50)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., June 1991 (7215.0; \$7.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, May 1991 (8358.0; \$10.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, May 1991 (8359.0; \$10.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, May 1991 (8360.0; \$10.00)  
Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (8782.0; \$10.00)  
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, March Qtr 1991 (8635.1; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, NSW, June 1991 (8731.1; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, Vic., June 1991 (8731.2; \$10.00)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., May 1991 (8741.2; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, Qld, June 1991 (8731.3; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, WA, June 1991 (8731.5; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, SA, June 1991 (8731.4; \$10.00)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, May 1991 (8741.4; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, NT, June 1991 (8731.7; \$5.50)

### Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, June 1991 (9303.3; \$10.00)  
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Tas., March Qtr 1991 (9405.6; \$6.50)



## Calendar of key releases

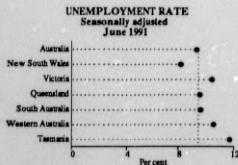
Expected releases over the fortnight to 20 August 1991

### August

- 7** Consumer Price Index, June Quarter 1991 (6401.0; \$11.00)
- 8** The Labour Force, Australia, July 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)  
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, May 1991, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.00)
- 12** Retail Trade, Australia, June 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)
- 15** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, June Quarter 1991 (5206.0; \$20.00)  
Balance of Payments, Australia, June Quarter 1991 (5302.0; \$20.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
6 August 1991



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (May 91) (trend estimate)	2.7	-1.2	3.4	6.9	-0.3	4.5	n.a.	9.3	2.4
New motor vehicle registrations (June 91)†	-18.0	-16.1	-14.2	-14.9	-9.9	-25.7	-22.3	4.0	-15.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (June 91)	-7.2	-29.1	8.6	-27.1	8.8	-14.6	18.8	25.5	-8.2
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 91)	0.8	-30.2	-19.5	2.7	-23.2	-18.8	33.5	-4.2	-13.5
Employed persons (June 91)*	-1.2	-6.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.5	-2.8	4.8	2.8	2.5
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 91)	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.0	3.9	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.9
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 91)	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.8	8.8	4.4	7.6	6.7	7.5
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 90)	-2.3	0.9	8.0	-0.7	0.3	29.3	32.8	4.6	2.8

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 6 August 1991

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Period	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	91,167	95,056	-0.4	1.0
	— 1984-85 prices			61,295	64,415	0.1	-1.5
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	5,736	6,463	-2.9	-11.6
	— 1984-85 prices			4,334	4,880	-3.4	-11.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Jun. 91	7,300	n.a.	n.a.	-10.4
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	May 91	7,553.5	7,580.6	3.1	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	14,284.8	15,243.0	0.4	-1.3
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	June 91	42,518	42,210	4.0	-15.6
Dwelling unit approvals		"	June 91	10,310	10,215	-9.8	-7.2
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,675	1,722	-2.0	-14.5
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	6,021	6,653	-5.1	-12.0
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,789	4,112	-6.9	-15.0
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	31,937	34,424	-1.9	-4.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,162	23,833	1.5	-7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	-6.2
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons (f)		'000	June 91	7,716.7	7,705.7	-0.1	-2.5
Unemployment rate † (f)		%	"	9.0	9.3	-0.1	2.7
Participation rate † (f)		"	"	62.9	63.0	-0.2	-0.8
Job vacancies		'000	May 91	25.1	25.7	-13.4	-49.8
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.1	1.1	-5.9	-18.8
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index (e)	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	214.1	n.a.	-0.2	4.9
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		May 91	117.8	n.a.	0.2	-0.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		May 91	110.8	n.a.	0.3	1.8
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 91	2,266	2,762	-29.1	-32.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (f)		\$	Feb. 91	564.20	n.a.	1.6	7.5
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	June 91	10.50	n.a.	0.15	-4.60
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	"	11.15	n.a.	0.40	-2.25
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	June 91	4,407	4,503	0.9	14.1
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,574	3,971	3.7	2.0
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	833	532	-16.0	885.2
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	488	295	-23.0	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-720	-877	-12.0	46.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	n.a.	98.9	-3.3	-6.5
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Mar. 91	133,269	n.a.	2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	178,372	n.a.	3.4	7.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
\$US		per \$A	June 91	0.7604	n.a.	-0.8	-2.3
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	59.2	n.a.	-0.3	-3.1
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)		million	Dec. 90	17.2	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals		'000	Mar. 91	189	175	-1.6	-3.3

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 7 August 1991. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 8 August 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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